

P&amp;G Case 8209M

Serial No. 09/924,561

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A laminate comprising at least one anaerobically degradable layer, wherein the anaerobically degradable layer is resistant to mold growth and has:

(a) an increase in basis weight of at least about 10%; and

(b) a decrease in tensile elongation of at least about 30%

after being immersed in an active anaerobic sludge medium for 28 days.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The laminate of Claim 1 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer comprises an anaerobically degradable polymer and at least about 0.1% of ~~inorganics~~ inorganic salts.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The laminate of Claim 2 wherein the anaerobically degradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of ~~polyestersamides~~ polyesteramides, polyhydroxyalkoates, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (Original): The laminate of Claim 3 wherein the polyesteramide has a melting temperature in the range of from about 90°C to about 190°C.

Claim 5 (Original): The laminate of Claim 3 wherein the polyesteramide comprises from about 20 to about 80 wt% ester and from about 20 to about 80 wt% amide.

Claim 6 (Original): The laminate of Claim 5 wherein the polyesteramide comprises from about 30 to about 50 wt% ester and from about 50 to about 70 wt% amide.

Claim 7 (Original): The laminate of Claim 2 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer comprises from about 0.1 wt% to about 60 wt% of inorganic salts comprising metal ions selected from the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, titanium, silicon, aluminum, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The laminate of Claim 7 wherein the ~~inorganics~~ inorganic salts are selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, potassium

P&amp;G Case 8209M

Serial No. 09/924,561

carbonate, sodium carbonate, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium phosphate, titanium oxide, silicone oxide, aluminum oxide, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (Original): The laminate of Claim 2 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer further comprises processing aids, fillers, surfactants, plasticizers, compatibilizers, impact modifiers, nucleating agents, anti-oxidants, heat or ultraviolet stabilizers, colorants, anti-static agents, lubricants, blowing agents, dispersants, thickening agents, antimicrobials, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A laminate comprising at least one anaerobically degradable layer, wherein the anaerobically degradable layer is resistant to mold growth and comprises an anaerobically degradable polymer and a water-responsive polymer and the anaerobically degradable layer has one or more of the following:

- (a) a change in basis weight of at least about 5%;
- (b) a decrease in tensile strength of at least about 20%;
- (c) a decrease in tensile elongation of at least about 30%

after being immersed in an active anaerobic sludge medium for one hour.

Claim 12 (Original): The laminate of Claim 11 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer comprises from about 50 to about 100 wt% of the anaerobically degradable polymer and from about 0 to about 50 wt% of the water-responsive polymer.

Claim 13 (Original): The laminate of Claim 12 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer comprises from about 60 to about 95 wt% of the anaerobically degradable polymer and from about 5 to about 40 wt% of the water-responsive polymer.

Claim 14 (Original): The laminate of Claim 11 wherein the anaerobically degradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyesteramide, polyhydroxyalkoate, and mixtures thereof, and the water-insoluble biodegradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl

P&amp;G Case 8209M

Serial No. 09/924,561

alcohol, polyethylene oxide, polypropylene oxide, poly(ethylene-propylene) oxide, poly(lactic acid), polycaprolactone, aliphatic-aromatic copolyester, polyalkylene succinate, polyalkylene succinate adipate, starch and derivatives, hydroxyalkylcellulose, alkyl hydroxypropyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The laminate of Claim 11 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer further comprises at least about 0.1 wt% of ~~inorganic~~ inorganic salts.

Claim 16 (Original): The laminate of Claim 15 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer comprises from about 0.1 wt% to about 60 wt% of inorganic salts comprising metal ions selected from the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, titanium, silicon, aluminum, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 17 (Original): An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, wherein at least a portion of the topsheet or the backsheet comprises the laminate of Claim 11.

Claim 18 (Original): A tampon applicator assembly comprising a barrel and a plunger, wherein at least a portion of the barrel or the plunger comprises the laminate of Claim 11.